

Appl. No. 10/057,255

Docket No. 1232-4812

Reply to Office Action dated May 3, 2005**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-84 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 12-20, 22-35, 38, 61 and 84 are herein amended. Claims 2, 11, 21, 36, 37, 39-60 and 62-83 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A data management method using a network system which includes a server, ~~[[and]]~~ a client terminal and a plurality of data servers, comprising:

the reception step of making the server receive a user's data storage request from the client terminal;

the select step of making the server automatically select ~~[[a]]~~ from the plurality of data servers at least one data server located in ~~[[an]]~~ a different area that has a predetermined relationship with from an area set registered by ~~[[a]]~~ the user of the client terminal; and

the storage step of making the server send data associated with the data storage request to the selected at least one data server, and store the data in the selected at least one data server.

**Claim 2 (canceled)**

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** The method according to claim 1, wherein when the ~~select step includes the step of:~~

~~making the server select~~ selects a plurality of data servers in the select step, and

~~the storage step includes the step of:~~

sending the server sends the data associated with the data storage request to the respective selected data servers, ~~and storing the data in the selected data servers.~~

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**Claim 4 (currently amended):** The method according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising:

the step of making the server acquire disaster information from a disaster information database that provides disaster information, and search for an area with a low disaster rate of occurrence on the basis of the acquired disaster information, and

wherein the select step includes the step of:

making the server select at least the data server located in ~~[[an]]~~ a different area other than the area set by the user from the registered area, and the data server located in the area with the low disaster rate of occurrence.

**Claim 5 (original):** The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

the step of making the server encrypt the data associated with the data storage request, and

wherein the storage step includes the step of:

making the server send the data encrypted by different methods to the respective data servers, and store the data in the data servers.

**Claim 6 (original):** The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

the step of making the server periodically acquire the encrypted data from the data servers;

the step of making the server decrypt the acquired data; and

the step of making the server compare the decrypted data.

**Claim 7 (original):** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

the step of making the server send to the client terminal an address of the data server that stores the data.

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**Claim 8 (original):** The method according to claim 5, further comprising:  
the step of making the server send to the client terminal an address of the data server  
that stores the data, and a key used to decrypt the encrypted data.

**Claim 9 (currently amended):** The method according to claim 1, wherein  
information of the registered area ~~set by the user~~ is pre-stored in the server.

**Claim 10 (original):** The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
the step of making the data server receive a user's data transmission request from  
the client terminal; and  
the step of making the data server send data associated with the data transmission request  
to the client terminal.

**Claim 11 (canceled)**

**Claim 12 (currently amended):** A server comprising:  
reception means for receiving a user's data storage request sent from a client  
terminal;  
select means for automatically selecting a data server that stores data associated with  
the data storage request via a communication line from a plurality of data servers at least one  
data server located in a different area from an area registered by the user of the client  
terminal; and  
sending means for sending the data associated with the data storage request to the at  
least one selected data server via [[the]] a communication line.

**Claim 13 (currently amended):** A computer program for making a computer  
function as:

reception means for receiving a user's data storage request sent from a client

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terminal via a communication line;

select means for automatically selecting a data server that stores data associated with the data storage request from a plurality of data servers at least one data server located in a different area from an area registered by the user of the client terminal; and

means for sending the data associated with the data storage request to the at least one selected data server via [[the]] a communication line.

**Claim 14 (currently amended):** A data management system including a control server, a client terminal, and a plurality of data servers, which can communicate with each other via a communication line,

said control server comprising:

reception means for receiving a user's data storage request sent from [[a]] the client terminal;

select means for automatically selecting a data server that stores data associated with the data storage request from the plurality of data servers at least one data server located in a different area from an area registered by the user of the client terminal; and

means for sending the data associated with the data storage request to the at least one selected data server, and

said data server comprising:

means for storing the data sent from said control server.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** ~~A data storage service apparatus which comprises a plurality of servers for storing data in response to a storage request via a network, comprising:~~

~~service control means which includes~~

~~select means for selecting the server in accordance with at least a user's service~~

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~~subscription qualification level, and~~

~~storage control means for storing data associated with a storage request in the server~~  
~~selected by said select means~~ The server according to claim 12, wherein said select means  
automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription  
qualification level.

**Claim 16 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15,  
wherein said select means selects at least two data servers.

**Claim 17 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15 wherein  
said ~~storage control~~ sending means encrypts the data associated with the storage request using an  
encryption method corresponding to the at least one data server selected by said select means;  
~~and stores the encrypted data in the selected server.~~

**Claim 18 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15,  
wherein the service subscription qualification level is determined based on ~~a value such as a~~  
~~subscription fee or the like~~ for a service.

**Claim 19 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15,  
wherein the service subscription qualification level is determined based on a service subscription  
~~term such as a number of years of subscription or the like.~~

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15,  
wherein said select means selects the at least one data server on the basis of disaster information.

**Claim 21 (canceled)**

**Claim 22 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15,  
wherein said select means selects a data server with a lowest suffering risk from the plurality of  
data servers corresponding to the service subscription qualification level of the user who issued

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the storage request, and a server with a lowest suffering risk of the data servers present in areas other than a location area of a client device that in a different area from the registered area registered by the user who issued the storage request.

**Claim 23 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, wherein when the user's service subscription qualification level has changed, said select means re-selects the at least one data server, and said ~~storage-control sending~~ means ~~stores~~ sends the data associated with the storage request again ~~[[in]]~~ to the at least one data server re-selected by said select means.

**Claim 24 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, wherein said select means re-selects the at least one data server in accordance with a change in disaster information, and said ~~storage-control sending~~ means ~~stores~~ sends the data associated with the storage request again ~~[[in]]~~ to the at least one data server re-selected by said select means.

**Claim 25 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, wherein when ~~a location area of a client device that issued the storage request~~ the registered area has changed, said select means re-selects the at least one data server, and said ~~storage-control sending~~ means ~~stores~~ sends the data associated with the storage request again ~~[[in]]~~ to the at least one data server re-selected by said select means.

**Claim 26 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, wherein ~~said service-control means includes~~ further comprising checking means for checking authenticity of the data stored in the at least one data server ~~by said storage-control means.~~

**Claim 27 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 26, wherein said checking means checks authenticity by comparing data which are associated with

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an identical storage request and are stored in a plurality of the data servers ~~by said storage control means.~~

**Claim 28 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 26, wherein said checking means checks if data becomes fraudulent due to a memory medium.

**Claim 29 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 26, wherein said checking means checks if data becomes fraudulent due to tampering of data.

**Claim 30 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 29, wherein when said checking means determines that the data becomes fraudulent due to tampering of data, said checking means sends a message indicating this to a client ~~device terminal~~ that issued the storage request of the data.

**Claim 31 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, ~~wherein said service control means includes~~ further comprising authentication means for authenticating if the user who issued the storage request is a member who subscribes to the service, and accepts only the storage request from the user authenticated by said authentication means.

**Claim 32 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, ~~wherein said service control means includes~~ further comprising authentication means for checking authenticity of the at least one data server selected by said select means, and said ~~storage control sending~~ means ~~stores sends~~ data associated with the storage request in only the data server authenticated by said authentication means.

**Claim 33 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 15, ~~wherein said service control means includes~~ further comprising notify means for sending at least various storage condition data associated with a data storage process ~~of said storage control~~

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~~means~~ to a client ~~device~~ terminal that issued the storage request.

**Claim 34 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 33, wherein said notify means sends encryption algorithm and key data in addition to storage location data of the data associated with the storage request as the storage condition data.

**Claim 35 (currently amended):** The ~~apparatus~~ server according to claim 33, wherein the client device includes storage means for storing at least the storage condition data sent from said notify means.

**Claim 36 (canceled)**

**Claim 37 (canceled)**

**Claim 38 (currently amended):** ~~[[A]] The method of controlling a data storage service apparatus which comprises a plurality of servers for storing data in response to a storage request via a network, comprising:~~

~~the service control step which includes~~

~~the select step of selecting the server in accordance with at least a user's service subscription qualification level, and~~

~~the storage control step of storing data associated with a storage request in the server selected according to claim 1, wherein the server automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription qualification level in the select step.~~

**Claim 39 –Claim 60 (canceled)**

**Claim 61 (currently amended):** The system according to claim 14, wherein said select means automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription qualification level ~~A data storage service system which comprises a plurality of servers for storing data in response to a storage request via a network, comprising:~~



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~~service control means which includes~~  
~~select means for selecting the server in accordance with at least a user's service~~  
~~subscription qualification level, and~~  
~~storage control means for storing data associated with a storage request in the server~~  
~~selected by said select means.~~

**Claim 62 - Claim 83 (canceled)**

**Claim 84 (currently amended):** ~~A control program executed by a data storage~~  
~~service system which comprises a plurality of servers for storing data in response to a storage~~  
~~request via a network, having contents for:~~

~~storing data associated with a storage request in the server selected in correspondence~~  
~~with at least a~~ The computer program according to claim 13, wherein said select means  
automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription  
qualification level.